

Letters from Rep. Sanchez, Members of CA Delegation Help Spur Transportation Department to Send Additional Funds for State's High-Speed Rail Line

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47) today applauded the U.S. Department of Transportation's decision to redirect hundreds of millions of dollars in high-speed rail funding to California. In November, Rep. Sanchez and other members of the California Delegation sent a series of letters to Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood asking that high-speed rail funding refused by other states be sent to California. As a result, the state now has an additional \$624 million in funding to help build a world-class high-speed rail line from Anaheim to San Francisco.

"I am thrilled with the Department of Transportation's excellent decision to make additional funding available for California's high-speed rail line," said Rep. Sanchez. "We are now one step closer to making our dreams of cleaner, safer, and more efficient mass transit a reality."

"As beneficiaries of this funding, California has an obligation to implement its rail plans in the most efficient, effective manner possible," Rep. Sanchez continued. "That includes linking urban centers, like Anaheim, to other population centers. Investing in Orange County would be a good first step for this ambitious infrastructure project."

According to the Los Angeles Times, a total of \$3.18 billion in federal funding has been approved for the state's high-speed train proposal so far, the largest amount for any pending rail project in the nation. With matching funds from the state, the amount available for construction is about \$5.5 billion.

Orange County has already taken significant steps to make high-speed rail a reality in Southern California. In July, the Federal Transit Administration awarded the City of Anaheim \$5 million to help fund the Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center (ARTIC) project. Once completed, ARTIC will accommodate existing bus, rail, and shuttle connections to the Anaheim Resort Area, as well as high-speed trains.